Poisonous smog over Bombay

153. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goernment's attention has been drawn to the press report regarding poisonous smog over Bombay polluting the air, causing various ailments which appeared in the *Indian Express* of the 4th February. 1987; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution. The steps include the following:

(i) Industries have been directed to company with the effluent and emission standards on time bound basis;

(ii) Prosecutions are launched against the defaulting units;

(iii) Setting of new industries and expansion of existing ones are not permitted without prior environmental clearance; and

(iv) Emission limits for vehicular exhausts have been laid down and a compulsory certification system for ensuring compliance of emission limits in motor vehicles has been introduced.

Pension to freedom fighters

154. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters from Allahabad who had applied for pension under the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme during the last three years; and

(b) what is the number of such cases sanctioned, rejected or pending at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) 40 applicants from Allahabad applied for pension in years 1984—86 out of which only 7 cases of claim of suffering was supported by documentary evidence, who have been sanctioned pension. Delayed applications are considered only if claim is supported by documentary evidence from the official records.

Memorandum submitted by the Chairman of the National Campaign Committee on Construction Labour

155. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on Construction Labour met the Minister and submitted to him a memorandum on the 12th November, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the main demands and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chairman of the Campaign Committee drew the attention of the Government to the various problems of workers engaged in building and construction industry, including the need to have a Central legislation providing for Construction Labour Boards on the lines of Dock Labour Boards. Considering the sweeping nature of the suggestions made in the memorandum, it is not possible to indicate with any degree of definiteness what action is feasible thereon.

Export of Bicycles

156. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of export of bicycles and their components during the year 1986-87;

(b) what are the corresponding figures for 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of bicycles has been stagnating for the past few years; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The value of export of bicycles and parts amounted to Rs. 30.00 crores during April-November, 1986. The exports were Rs. 46.50 crores during 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The stagnation in bicycles exports have taken place because:

(1) Indian industry is still largely producing the traditional bicycles and needs upgradation of technology.

(2) Balance of payments problems are being faced by many of our traditional markets. This has resulted in reduced demand for imports.

(3) Certain of indigenous capacity in some of our markets for manufacture of bicycles.

Promotion of tourism by India in Mauritius

157. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mauritius has sought the assistance of the Government of India for promoting tourism in that country;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The various measures for the promotion of tourism between mauritius and India came in for discusson both during the visit of Minister of State for Tourism accompanied by the Director General of Tourism in Sepember, 1986 and during the recent visit to India by a high level Mauritanian delegation led by Sir Charles Gaetan Duval, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Tourism.

No agreement on Tourism has been signed between the two countries. However, in the agreed minutes of discussions between the high level Mauritanian delegation referred to above, various measures such as India's participation in the Indian Ocean Festival to be held in Mauritius this year and India's assistance on estiblishing a hotel and catering school in Mauritius have been agreed to on principle. Government of India have also agreed to examine administratively and financially to consider the Mauritanian proposal for special incentives to be granted to Indian tourists going to Mauritius.

Change of name of Bombay City

158. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Bombay Muncipal Corporation to change the name of the city from Bombay to Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this request; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As a matter of policy, the Government of India have not been agreeing to the proposals for the change in the names of villages towns, cities merely on grounds of local patriotism or for linguistic reasons or for merely satisfying local sentiments.

News-item captioned "Higher Export Quota for State"

159. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Higher Export Quota for State" which appeared in the Indian Express, Bombay edition of the 5th February 1987; and